

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PFOR, AR, PE XM

SUBJECT: SPECULATION CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF NEW FOREIGN
MINISTER

REF: BA-6259

1. OF THE THREE NAMES MENTIONED SO FAR AS POSSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTER, JOAQUIN DIAZ DE VIVAR AT THIS POINT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES TELL US THAT JOB WAS OFFERED TO HIPOLITO PAZ BUT THAT HE FLATLY REFUSED IT, AS HE HAD EARLIER REFUSED ROBLEDO'S OFFER TO BECOME AMB TO BRAZIL WHN LATTER CAME BACK TO BE FONMIN. REPORTEDLY, PAZ SAYS HIS REASON FOR NOT ACCEPTING THE JOB IS THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE GOVERNMENT SO LONG AS MRS. PERON IS THE PRESIDENT.

2. SOURCES INCHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TELL US BENITO LLAMBI HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY DISCARDED AS A POSSIBILITY, THUS LEAVING DIAZ DE VIVAR, CURRENTLY AMB IN LIMA. TO GIVE SOME SUBSTANCE TO THIS SPECULATION IS THE FACT THAT AFTER RUMOR HAS HAD IT FOR PAST TWO WEEKS THAT DAMASCO WIL GO TO LIMA TO REPLACE DIAZ DE VIVAR, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST NIGHT APPROVED EX-INTERIOR MIN VICENTE DAMASCO'S
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APPOINTMENT AS AMB.

3. NEW NAMES MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES ARE FRANCISCO JOSE FIGUEROLA, CURRENTLY UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR JOSE FIGUEROLA, CURRENTLY UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND AN EX-MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND RICARDO GUARDO, CURRENTLY ARGENTINE AMB TO THE VATICAN. FIGUEROLA, HOWEVER, WAS CLOSE TO DAMASCO AND THEREFORE, DESPITE HIS OTHERWISE EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS, WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN UNLIKELY CHOICE. THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULARLY AGAINST GUARDO, BUT SO FAR HIS NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY ONLY ONE SOURCE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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